

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DIMITRIOU LETTER TO POST ON LIFTING EMBARGO

FOLLOWING LETTER FROM CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU APPEARED
IN APRIL 8 WASHINGTON POST:

QTE. WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR MARCH 29 LEAD EDITORIAL, "A
NEW LOOK AT CYPRUS," I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING
REMARKS:

THE CYPRUS ISSUE CANNOT POSSIBLY BE SET TO ONE SIDE FOR THE
PURPOSE OF GETTING ON WITH RESTORING FIRM AMERICAN TIES
WITH TURKEY AND GREECE SO LONG AS IT HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED.
SINCE THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS IN JULY 1974, THE
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CYPRUS PROBLEM HAS BEEN HAVING AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE
RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY,
AND WILL CONTINUE DOING SO, IF IT IS NOT TACKLED DECISIVELY
ON THE BASIS OF THE U.N. RESOLUTIONS ON CYPRUS, WHICH CALL
FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE TURKISH TROOPS (ABOUT 40,000)
STILL OCCUPYING 40 PERCENT OF THE AREA OF CYPRUS, THE RETURN
OF THE 200,000 REFUGEES, ETC.

THE EMBARGO WAS IMPOSED BY THE AMERICAN CONGRESS TO UPHOLD
THE RULE OF LAW, CONSIDERING THAT U.S. ARMS AND EQUIPMENT

HAVE BEEN ILLEGALLY USED BY THE TURKS IN THEIR INVASION
AND CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS. THE RELEVANT LAW
SPECIFIES THAT THE EMBARGO COULD ONLY BE LIFTED IF SUB-
STANTIVE PROGRESS WERE MADE ON THE QUESTION OF RESOLVING
THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. SO FAR NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, SO
THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST,
TO LIFT THE EMBARGO.

THE TURKISH SIDE SO FAR HAS BEEN INTRANSIGENT AND UNCOM-
PROMISING IN ITS POLICY TOWARD CYPRUS. TO LIFT THE
EMBARGO WITHOUT A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE
TURKS WOULD SIMPLY ENCOURAGE THEIR LACK OF CONCILIATION
AND MODERATION, BUT VIRTUALLY UNDERMINE ALL EFFORTS TO GET
THEM TO SUBMIT SUBSTANTIVE AND NEGOTIABLE PROPOSALS (AS
THEY HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO DO) FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE
TALKS BETWEEN THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS.

THE RESUMPTION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY, IRRESPECTIVE OF
WHETHER OR NOT SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED
TOWARD A CYPRUS SOLUTION, WOULD BE MUCH MORE COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE THAN SUPPOSEDLY THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN. IN THIS
RESPECT, IT SHOULD BE OBSERVED THAT PERHAPS THE EMBARGO
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HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN THE SUPPORT THAT IT WARRANTED. THIS
HAS EMBOLDENED TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE, AND SO FAR UNDER-
MINED HOPE OF SUCCESS OF THE EMBARGO IN THE DIRECTION OF
OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. UNQTE. VANCE

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